

Operation Avid Recovery

USEUCOM is conducting Operation Avid Recovery with Nigerian and British servicemen and women in clearing unexploded munitions left from a tragic and deadly accident in Lagos, at the Ikeja Cantonment Area on 27 Jan 02. The EOD soldiers are helping to stabilize the cantonment area, as well as provide safety training to the public and special ordnance handling training for Nigerian military personnel. President Obasanjo requested of President Bush an augmentation of U.S. explosive ordnance disposal experts to the Nigerian police and military experts already on the scene. After the signature of an agreement between the governments of the US and Nigeria, a 60-man task force of Explosives Ordnance Disposal specialists and others began a two-month long deployment the week of 25 February. They are assisting and making good progress with disposal of unexploded ordnance and helping the local populace deal with the residual danger of unexploded ordnance in the area.

U.S. units participating in the deployment include:

- Explosive ordnance disposal experts are from the 720th Ordnance Company (EOD), Mannheim, Germany
- Medical specialists from: the 160th Forward Surgical Team (FST), Landstuhl, Germany; [30th Medical Brigade](#), Heidelberg, Germany; and the [First Armored Division](#), Wiesbaden, Germany.
- In addition to the EOD and medical soldiers, others with unique skills and equipment will make up the Task Force. The additional task force members will provide communications, logistical and public affairs support to the EOD experts.

This operation has been carefully planned with close cooperation between the U.S. Army and Nigerian government and military representatives, numerous civilian contractors and other authorities.

The EOD soldiers are conducting a detailed survey and inspection of the cantonment area, identifying and marking unexploded ordnance. If the unexploded ordnance is deemed stable enough, the EOD specialists transport it to a safe location away from populated areas for destruction.

For more information, visit: <http://www.eucom.mil>